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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 001636

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR BURNS/SATTERFIELD/DIBBLE;  
NEA/SA/EX FOR RICHIE; DEPT FOR DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR  
DS/IP/NEA;  
NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN; USAID FOR DCHA, DCHA/FPP, PRM FOR  
DEWEY/GREENE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KWBG PHUM PREL PTER ASEC CASC GZ IS

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: FIVE PALESTINIANS AND ONE ISRAELI  
INJURED IN THE WEST BANK; PALESTINIANS LAUNCH TWO ROCKETS  
IN THE GAZA STRIP -- MARCH 18, 2005 (1300 HOURS LOCAL)

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

¶1. (SBU) Summary: West Bank settlers wounded five  
Palestinian workers were wounded in an attack in Nahliel and  
an Israeli woman was lightly wounded by a metal object thrown  
at her car in the West Bank March 18. Palestinians launched  
two rockets in the Gaza strip March 17, but no injuries  
occurred. End Summary.

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West Bank  
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¶2. (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: According to Palestinian and Israeli media, five  
Palestinian workers were wounded in an attack by West Bank  
Jewish settlers in the settlement of Nahliel, west of  
Ramallah, on March 17. The settlers severely beat the  
Palestinian workers with stones and clubs.

-- Injuries: According to Palestinian and Israeli media, an  
Israeli woman was lightly wounded when a metal object was  
thrown at her vehicle near Hawara, in the Nablus area, on  
March 17.

-- Injuries: According to Palestinian sources, a young  
Palestinian man was lightly injured when an Israeli settler  
attacked him in the old city of Hebron on March 17.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian sources, three Hamas  
members were arrested in the Ramallah and Nablus areas on  
March 17.

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Gaza  
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¶3. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: Nil.

-- Mortars/Rockets: According to UNRWA, Palestinians launched  
one rocket at Netzarim March 17 and another rocket at Ganei  
Tal, but no injuries resulted.

-- Shootings: Nil.

-- Explosions: According to UNRWA, overnight March 17-18 an  
explosion occurred in the northern Gaza strip. No injuries  
occurred.

¶4. (SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS: Nil.

¶5. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic  
artery, was open March 18, with a major detour at Netzarim  
Junction. Abu Khouli was open March 18.

-- Erez Crossing was open for internationals and for a  
limited number of Palestinians March 17, and 1,550 laborers  
and 190 merchants crossed into Israel.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was open March 17, and 549  
laborers entered.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed March 18.

-- Karni Terminal was open March 18.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures March 18.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed March 18. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi.

**16. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:**

-- In Gush Katif, 10,000 people attended a mass prayer rally March 17 in Neve Dekalim to protest Gaza disengagement. No injuries or arrests occurred.

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